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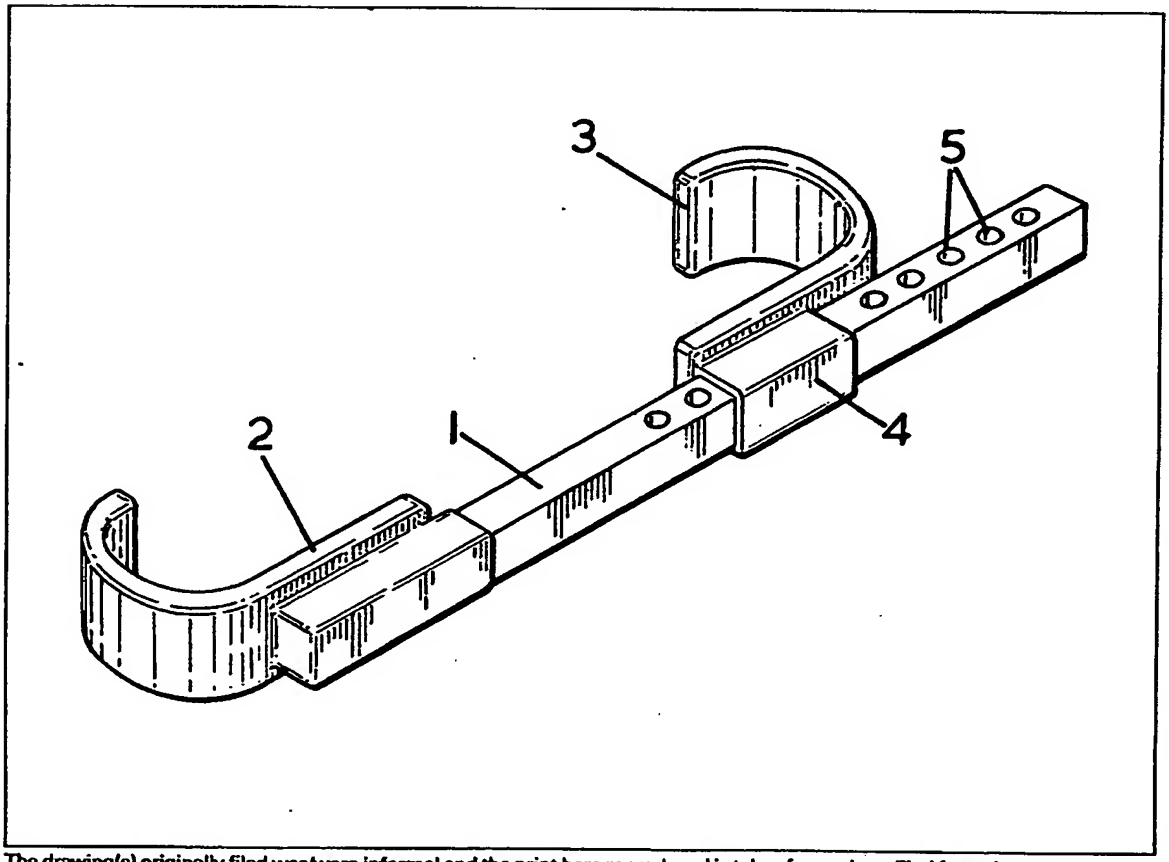
(54) **A security device for use on bicycles**

(57) A security device for use on bicycles, comprising two substantially hook shaped members which are each adapted to be hooked around respective ones of the wheel forks of a wheel of the bicycle. A connecting rod extends between the said wheel forks, through the wheel spokes, and connects the said hook shaped members together, and at least one of the said hook shaped members is slidable relative to the connecting rod. Also provided is means for fixing the said at least one slidable hook shaped member in position on the connecting rod to prevent the security device from being unhooked from around the said wheel forks.



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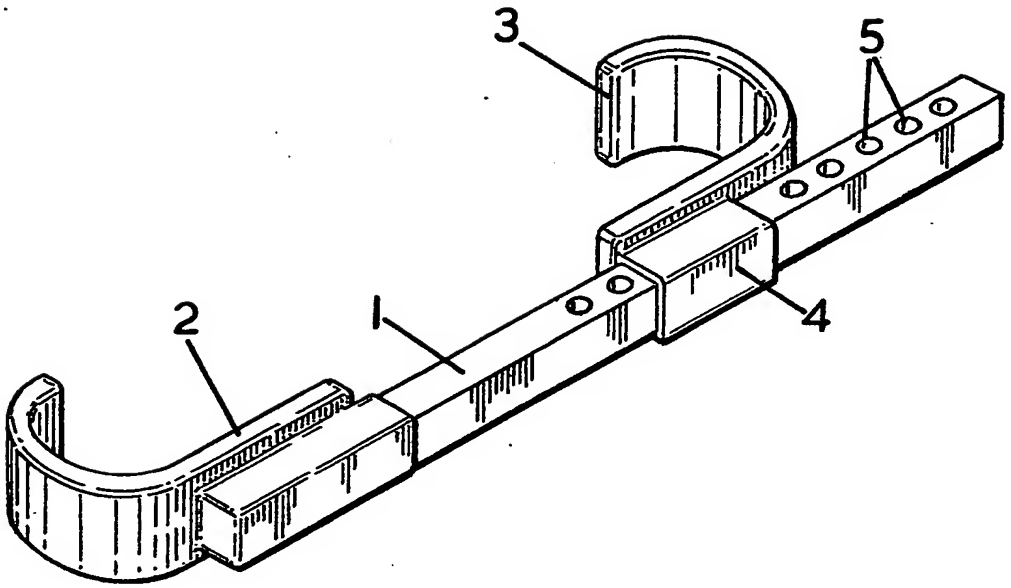

SPECIFICATION

A security device for use on bicycles

The present invention relates to a security device for use on bicycles.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a simple security device for use on bicycles which deters attempted theft of the bicycle.

According to the present invention there is provided a security device for use on bicycles, comprising two substantially hook shaped members which are each adapted to be hooked around respective ones of the wheel forks of a wheel of the bicycle, a connecting rod which extends between the said wheel forks, through the wheel spokes, and connects the said hook shaped members together, at least one of the said hook shaped members being slidable relative to the connecting rod, and means for fixing the said hook shaped members in position on the connecting rod to prevent them from being unhooked from around the said wheel forks.

Preferably, the said at least one slidable hook shaped member is fixed in position on the connecting rod by means of a separate locking device comprising a hasp, which engages through a hole in the connecting rod located behind the hook shaped member.

Preferably, the locking device comprises a padlock.

Preferably a plurality of holes are provided through the connecting rod to enable the distance the hook shaped members are fixed apart to be varied for different wheel fork widths.

Preferably the said at least one slidable hook shaped member is slidable on and off the connecting rod.

Preferably the hook shaped members are coated with plastics material to prevent the wheel forks being scratched thereby.

The connecting rod may comprise a solid bar or alternatively may comprise a tube.

Preferably the connecting bar is comprised of mild steel which may be hardened.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawing, which shows a perspective view of a security device embodying the present invention.

Referring to the accompanying drawing the security device embodying the present invention comprises a hardened mild steel bar 1 and two hook shaped members 2 and 3. Hook shaped member 2 is rigidly fixed to one end of the bar 1, whilst hook shaped member 3 is freely slidable over the remainder of the bar 1 and off the bar 1. To enable member 3 to be freely slidable over and off the bar 1 the member 3 comprises a substantially U shaped member 4 welded to the back of it, to provide a slot through which the bar 1 can slide. Over a substantial portion of the free end of the bar 1 holes 5 are provided through which the hasp of a padlock, or a similar locking device (not shown) can be engaged.

In use the slidable member 3 is removed from the bar 1, which is then threaded through the spokes of the wheel of a bicycle such that the rigidly fixed hook shaped member 2 is hooked around one of the wheel forks. The slidable hook shaped member 3 is then slid onto the free-end of the bar 1 and along the bar 1 until it is hooked around the other wheel fork. The hasp of a padlock is then passed through the nearest hole 5 in the bar 1 behind the slidable member 3 to prevent its removal from the bar 1.

The wheel of the bicycle is now rigidly fixed in position to the forks which hold it, thus making theft of the bicycle impossible without removing the security device. Assuming that the locking device used is of reasonable quality the security device may only be removed by sawing or cutting through the bar 1 between the locking device and member 2, or through the hasp of the locking device. This greatly deters the great majority of bicycle thieves.

If desired the hooks 2 and 3 may be coated with plastics material to prevent them from scratching the paintwork of the wheel forks around which they are hooked.

It will be appreciated that where the security device is intended to be used more as a deterrent to theft than as an actual prevention of theft, the mild steel bar need not be hardened. Indeed, in order to save manufacturing costs a tube may be used to replace the solid bar.

CLAIMS

1. A security device for use in bicycles, comprising two substantially hook shaped members which are each adapted to be hooked around respective ones of the wheel forks of a wheel of the bicycle, a connecting rod which extends between the said wheel forks, through the wheel spokes, and connects the said hook shaped members, together, at least one of the said hook shaped members being slidable relative to the connecting rod, and means for fixing the said at least one slidable hook shaped member in position on the connecting rod to prevent the security device from being unhooked from around the said wheel forks.

2. A security device according to claim 1, wherein the said at least one slidable hook shaped member is fixed in position on the connecting rod by means of a separate locking device comprising a hasp, which engages through a hole in the connecting rod located behind the hook shaped member.

3. A security device according to claim 2, wherein the locking device comprises a padlock.

4. A security device according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein a plurality of holes are provided through the connecting rod to enable the distance the hook shaped members are fixed apart to be varied for different wheel fork widths.

5. A security device according to any preceding claim, wherein the said at least one slidable hook shaped member is slidable on and off the connecting rod.

6. A security device according to any preceding claim, wherein the hook shaped members are coated with plastics material to prevent the wheel forks being scratched thereby.

7. A security device according to any preceding

claim, wherein the connecting rod may comprise a solid bar.

8. A security device according to any preceding claim, wherein the connecting rod comprises a tube.

9. A security device according to any preceding claim, wherein the connecting bar is comprised of mild steel which may be hardened.

10. A security device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

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